Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROUTE TALKS AND PRECLEARANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ON JULY 10:

BEGIN TEXT

THE DEALINE TO TERMINATE THE UNITED STATES PRECLEARANCE PROGRAM FOR TRANS-BORDER FLIGHTS FROM CANADA TO THE U.S.A. WILL BE EXTENDED FROM JULY 29 TO SEPTEMBER 10, 1973, TRANSPORT MINISTER JEAN MARCHAND ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE FEDERAL CABINET HAS PROVIDED THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A SHORT AND LIMITED EXTENSION TO THE DEADLINE TO TERMINATE PRECLEARANCE, TO PERMIT THE CANADA-UNITED STATES AIR NEGOTIATION TALKS WHICH INVOLVE CONSIDERATION OF PRECLEARANCE PROCEDURES, TO CONCLUDE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE FOR OVER THREE YEARS.

IN MAKING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO GRANT

SUCH AN EXTENSION TO ALLOW TIME IN JULY AND EARLY AUGUST TO FINALIZE THE COMPLEX AIR ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THIS AIR ROUTE NEGOTIATION IS THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX IN THE HISTORY OF CANADIAN CIVIL AVIATION, AND HAS INCLUDED SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS OF CHARTER ISSUES AS WELL AS NEGOTIATIONS OF A REVISED AND EXPANDED ROUTE PACKAGE FOR SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. THESE HAVE PROVEN TO BE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING NEGOTIATIONS. FROM THE BEGINNING IT HAS BEEN THE CANADIAN OBJECTIVE TO ACHIEVE A MAJOR EXPANSION OF ROUTES OF BENEFIT TO ALL PARTS OF CANADA, BUT PARTICULARLY TO WESTERN CANADA WHERE SEVERAL ROUTE REQUESTS HAD BEEN OUTSTANDING FROM THE 1966 NEGOTIATIONS.

THE ISSUE OF PRECLEARANCE HAS BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIR ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE PRECLEARANCE PERMITTED UNITED STATES AIR CARRIERS TO OPERATE WHAT IS VIRTUALLY A DOMESTIC AIR NETWORK COMMENCING FROM CANADIAN GATEWAYS. BY BEING PRECLEARED IN CANADA, UNITED STATES AIR CARRIERS COULD THEN FAN OUT TO OTHER DESTINATIONS BEYOND THE FIRST STOP IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE IT WAS THEN NOT NECESSARY TO UNDERGO CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION INSPECTION.

IN PARALLEL WITH THE RECENT AIR ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS, TALKS ON PRECLEARANCE HAVE BEEN HELD WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD. TRANSPORT MINISTER JEAN MARCHAND, HAS PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT IF PRECLEARANCE IS GOING TO STAY IN CANADA IT MUST BE ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS AND BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TRANS-BORDER GATEWAYS IN CANADA WHERE THERE IS A REASONABLE TRAFFIC DEMAND FOR PRECLEARANCE TO BE INSTITUTED. THE TRANSPORT MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT TO BE TRULY NON-DISCRIMINATORY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MUST BE ABLE TO OFFER RECIPROCITY AND AGREE TO PRECLEARANCE TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES ON FLIGHTS TO CANADA, SHOULD CANADA WISH TO EXERCISE SUCH AN OPTION. MR. MARCHAND STRESSED THAT THE ALKS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PRECLEARANCE WERE BEING HELD IN PARALLEL WITH THE BILATERAL AIR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE SHOULD PERMIT THE FINAL ROUND, EXPECTED TO BEGIN MID-JULY, TO BE COMPLETED. END TEXT.

2. OUR NOTE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 10 DEADLINE WAS DELIVERED JULY 11.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: AIR ROUTE AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1973OTTAWA01565 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: OTTAWA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730740/aaaabdla.tel Line Count: 115 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: kellerpr

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31 DEC 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CIVAIR: ROUTE TALKS AND PRECLEARANCE

TAGS: ETRN, CA, US

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005